

T H E C L E V E L A N D M U S E U M O F A R T

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ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES OPENING OF GALLERIES

Nine galleries, housing the newly relocated Ancient, Early Christian, Byzantine and Near Eastern Collections open to the public today in the east wing of The Cleveland Museum of Art. This marks the completion of Phase III of the reorganization and reinstallation of the Museum's entire collection.

In 1972, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded the Museum a grant of \$87,112 to assist the renovation; 975 Museum members contributed over \$133,000 to match the grant.

The rearrangement of the collections is designed to integrate works of art into historical contexts which will serve to present the collections in a more meaningful way. This is a departure from the traditional approach adopted by most American museums whereby paintings are isolated from other works of art which in turn are categorized according to media.

Phase I saw the relocation and reconstruction of the Oriental Collections and the Modern Collections in 1970. Phase II, the installation of the recently acquired French room from Rouen and its adjacent galleries, was completed earlier this year.

Phase IV is scheduled to commence in January 1974 with the relocation and rearrangement of the European and American collections of the 19th century in the west galleries. It is anticipated that the last unit of the program, the rearrangement of the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Rococo galleries in the 1916 building, will be completed by 1976.

According to Dr. Sherman E. Lee, the Museum's director, "The final result will be unique among the collection presentations of major American art museums, and will aid in the understanding and enjoyment of both lay and professional visitors."

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